

MINUTES OF GREENS MEETING HELD 13th January 2016

Present

Bruce Allison ELC: Andy Hendry Kevin Willis WGC green convenors:

Craig Pennycuick, Stevie Nicol WGC green keepers. David Wallace WGC Competitions convenor

Apologies Scott Higgins

Minutes.

Winter Programme

The winter work was discussed.

Due to the terrible weather bringing everything to a standstill it was agreed that no new bunker work would be undertaken until the 2nd and 17th were completed. The likelihood was that the 8th bunkers may be filled in as programmed but work on 5 and 6 would be put back until next year.

As the tractors or 4x4s were cutting up the course it was agreed that any work route being cut up would be blue lined for play.

The robot had been in for cutting of the hill at 1 but even it could not function with the wet grass and slippery surface.

The sleepers at the 1st tees have been fitted with anti slip edges.

A general tidy up of the pathways at one, twelve and seventeen will still be done.

It was noted that the green keepers had managed to tie into a drain near the 17th bunker and this had helped to drain away the excess water. A discussion took place regarding worsening wet spells and it is to be noted where water is forming for future attention.

Fixture List and Summer Maintenance Programme

Due to circumstances the competitions sub committee had not managed to liaise with the green keepers to discuss competitions and summer maintenance work. This was achieved at our meeting where Dave Wallace and Craig Pennycuick went over the schedules and agreed that competitions would not be disrupted by ongoing work and Craig said, weather permitting that they should be able to dovetail with the competitions to cause the least inconvenience. Hopefully next year this can be done before lists are prepared.

Concrete Pathway at 1st Tee

This path had been identified as a problem to electric trolleys in the past. ELC had looked at various solutions to try and take the bumps out of the path. After much discussion it was agreed that there was no workable solution to this pathway.

It was noted that due to water draining down the path, ice was forming on colder days. It was agreed that a salt bin would be provided by ELC/Enjoy Leisure and the green keepers would keep it topped up. During the week the green keepers will salt the pathway, but at week ends this responsibility will have to be taken up by the membership. A notice will be placed asking members to be vigilant.

A.O.B.

It was mentioned that the green staff may be augmented by work experience/apprentice bodies at some stage through the season. This may help with holiday cover etc.

Craig mentioned that someone had moved tee markers at the week end. He stated that the reason they were placed off the main tee was to protect them during bad weather. If this was to continue the only alternative would be to close the course during wet weather. (I raised this point at the men's committee meeting same night and no one had noticed anybody doing this, due to the position of a few of them, it may have been mischief makers.

The general feeling of the green keeping staff was of frustration at not being able to get out and complete work due to the weather.

It was mentioned at the men's meeting that night that pin positions had not been changed for three weeks and bunkers had not been raked. Craig said that while there was any frost in the green pins were not being moved, same applied if they were too wet. He felt that the bunkers were either under water or iced over, so they would be raked when possible.

It was noted nothing had been done about a rail along the 13th tee. Bruce would follow this up.

Bruce asked if the green keepers could be found a home while work was being done to create a new office for them, also if a container could be placed in the car park during this work to house their essential equipment. It was agreed they could use one of the visitors rooms behind the gents toilets and that the container could be sited at the far end of the car park.

Meeting with Ian Sills Enjoy Leisure

Kevin and I met with Ian Sills same day to discuss tee signs, score cards and watering system. After discussion it was agreed that Enjoy Leisure would supply 10,000 new cards with the remeasure on them. Also the metre distances would be removed to allow for more scores and stableford scores to be marked. There was a discussion about producing an 4 page 8 side card with bunkers, advertising and distances on it for visitors. Ian felt that the new Pro may want to get involved in this. Possibly the club would finance further cards by advertising.

Tee markers were discussed, Ian felt that this was a matter for ELC and not EL. He is going to talk to the council about this, he does realise it needs done and had samples of tee signs with advertising boards on them. They could probably raise funds for the club if permission to advertise was given by ELC.

We talked about a watering system for the course, he said that EL had helped Musselburgh with their system and if approached they would probably help WGC in the same way. Ian will chase up on all of the above points with EL and ELC and get back to us.

Watering System

I spoke to Bengy Barsanti regarding ELC funding. Below is the outcome of their bid for capital.

I have spoken to Bruce, Stuart and Ian. As we thought there is no capital allocation for this work so it will be about the club getting a funding bid together. This means timeframes will be delayed but does not mean the end of the project by any means. I am waiting on Bruce to get me some specifications and an outline cost and then we can get a catch up to go through our next steps.

The club will need to understand that to get significant investment like this you will need to start looking at some of the additional work you are doing within the community. i.e., We may need to look at strengthening your membership numbers and development of your youth section through the project. As you will understand all funders want to see the impact and added value of their investment.

However this is what the Dunbar Community Sport Hub is for to create stronger more sustainable community clubs so there is lots of support out there for this.

Viridor Credits were never able to fund council based projects however this has changed with new regulations.

This would be the first place I would go to get the main source of funding.

<http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/scotland/> As with the original plan there would also be support from Stuarts team for the actual work.

This is the current position regarding a watering system. It may be for the committee to decide whether we want to go down this road or not. The initial idea came from ELC and now it will fall to the club to obtain the funding, albeit with help from ELC. This is one for discussion when the time is right.

If I have missed anything I put it down to three meetings in the same day.

Join a golf course she said, start to wind down towards retirement. Ha Ha Ha

Andy Hendry
Greens